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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you the attached letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 18 August 2000 concerning a further act of aggression committed on 12 August 2000 by United States and British aircraft, which took off from the territory of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, against the town of Samawah. The attack was directed against the Railway Bureau and resulted in injuries to four civilians and in substantial damage to the Railway Bureau building. The Minister holds the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for these acts of aggression and also affirms the well-established right of Iraq to take the necessary measures to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for these acts of aggression as a result of which four civilian officials of the railway were injured.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61838 (E) 240800 240800

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 14 August 2000, I wish to inform you that United States and British aircraft, not content with their crime of 11 August 2000 in shelling a residential district in the town of Samawah in Muthanna governorate, returned on the following day to complete their vile crime by shelling the Railway Bureau in Samawah, injuring four innocent Iraqi civilians. The details of this vile crime are given below.

At 2345 hours on Saturday, 12 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft, coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti airspace, flew 24 sorties, including 16 from Saudi Arabian airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft from inside S di Arabian airspace, and 8 from Kuwaiti airspace supported by an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew the Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Rumaythah, Najaf, Artawi, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Shatrah and Akhdir areas and shelled service installations, namely the Railway Bureau of Muthanna governorate, injuring four innocent citizens who were railway officials working on the premises, namely:

1. Talib Abd al-Amir
2. Sabah Jibar Kazim
3. Ra'd Khaz'al Karim
4. Sa'd Mun'athir Abbud

The attack also caused substantial damage to the building of the Railway Bureau.

This brings to 18,669 the total number of armed sorties flown to date by British and United States aircraft from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti airspace since the brutal United States and British attack of 17 December 1998. These sorties have resulted in 311 civilian fatalities and 931 other casualties.

This attack is a continuation of the hostility practised by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq with the aim of undermining its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and of systematically and deliberately killing Iraqis and devastating the country's infrastructure and civilian installations in total disregard of all humanitarian values, the principles of the United Nations and the United Nations Charter, international law and established international custom all of which assert the rejection of the use or threat of force against the integrity or independence of any State. Furthermore, the support provided by the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti regimes to these aircraft is regarded as an act of ongoing hostility towards Iraq directed against the lives of innocent Iraqis and intended to destroy their property. These two regimes are participating directly in the aggression against Iraq through their support for the air attacks by United States and British aircraft, and through the facilities they extend to those aircraft which take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The support for the United States and the United Kingdom provided by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has made them key participants in the aggression, and they bear international responsibility for such hostile action against the Republic of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, while holding the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully liable internationally for their hostile and provocative actions and for the resulting damage, reserves its full and well-established right, conferred by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international practice, to take the necessary measures to defend the inviolability and integrity of Iraqi territory, and the safety of its people, and to demand compensation, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, for the human casualties and the material and moral damage inflicted on it as a result of such hostilities.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/826

Security Council

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23 August 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-fly zones. During the period from 8 to 15 August 2000, these aircraft carried out 216 aggressive sorties, 124 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 44 from Turkey, killing two innocent civilians, injuring a further 23 and destroying civilian residential buildings and important civilian installations including grain warehouses.

The Minister urges the Security Council to assume its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61831 (E) 240800 240800

Annex to the letter dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. In the period from 8 to 15 August 2000, these aircraft carried out 216 sorties, 124 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 44 from Turkey, killing two innocent civilians and injuring a further 23, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 44 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 10 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Mosul, Ayn Zalah, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 11 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Zakho and eastern Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1120 hours on 15 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Tall Afar and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 172 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1700 on 9 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Shinafiyah, Basra, Qal'at Sukkar, Qurnah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Taqtaqanah, Ushbayjah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2245 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2225 on 10 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 14 of them from

Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basra, Amarah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 2345 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2247 on 11 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Afak and Taqtaqanah areas. In the town of Samawah, in Muthanna Governorate, the Khashayah residential neighbourhood was attacked, two innocent civilians were killed and 19 others injured. Warehouses belonging to the State Enterprise for Construction Industries were destroyed, as were the traffic department, a provisioning centre and a branch of the State Enterprise for Grain Trading and Processing. Six residential buildings and two civilian vehicles were also destroyed, while refrigeration and electrical power plants were put out of operation and the town water supply was cut off. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0015 hours on 12 August 2000, drove them off.

(d) At 2229 hours on 12 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 48 missions, 36 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Nasiriyah, Ukhaydir, Samawah, Taqtaqanah, Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Najaf, Artawi, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Qurnah, Diwaniyah and Shatrah areas. The aircraft attacked a service installation, namely the Muthanna Governorate railway administrative offices, wounding four innocent civilian employees and causing substantial material damage to the building. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 0010 hours on 13 August 2000, drove them off.

(e) At 2025 hours on 13 August 2000 United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Nasiriyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Salih and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1405 hours on 14 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control

aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Ushbayjah, Nasiriyah, Salman, Afak, Nakhib, Hayy, Ramilah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1710 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-fly zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-fly zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these shameless acts of aggression, urges the Security Council to intervene with the Governments of the States concerned and prevail upon them to halt their aggression and respect the rules of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should like to take this opportunity to refer to my letter dated 6 May 2000 in which we asked Your Excellency, on the basis of your responsibilities, to adopt a very clear position in opposition to this ongoing armed aggression against the sovereignty of an independent State and a Member of the United Nations and to call for the cessation of this unlawful activity. We did not receive any response from Your Excellency and in requesting you to declare your position, as mentioned above, we are asking you to assume your responsibilities under Article 99 of the Charter and to notify the Security Council so that it may take the necessary steps to put an end to the no-fly zones that have been imposed on Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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24 August 2000
English
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Identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the active and direct involvement of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq in the unlawful no-fly zones. The Minister urges you to condemn these acts of aggression and to intervene with the Governments concerned with a view to halting such acts. He also affirms the right of Iraq to seek compensation for all the damage it has sustained as a result of these attacks.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61996 (E) 250800 250800

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my numerous earlier letters concerning the continuing use by the United States and the United Kingdom of military aircraft in attacks on civilian targets in Iraq which, flouting the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, have resulted in substantial loss of civilian life and property. These acts of aggression have no international legitimacy and are warranted by no mandate from the Security Council or any other United Nations body.

These armed attacks by United States and British aircraft are, in the main, carried out from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with the unconditional approval of the authorities in those two States. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait must therefore be considered as actively and directly involved in the attacks, which they finance and which are carried out from their territory and airspace. Such armed aerial attacks have been carried out against Iraq on a regular basis ever since the 30 Power aggression against Iraq in 1991. Since the most recent United States and British onslaught against Iraq on 17 December 1998, the number of such attacks has increased: as of 12 August 2000, the number of armed aerial sorties carried out by United States and British aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace was 18,607. These cowardly raids caused 311 civilian fatalities and injured a further 931 citizens, in addition to causing substantial damage to Iraqi civilian installations that has included the destruction of warehouses containing foodstuffs and construction materials and civilian vehicles, the crippling of electrical power and clean drinking water installations and the destruction of a large number of residential buildings.

When Iraq condemns these ongoing criminal attacks, as it did most recently in a speech made on 8 August 2000 by H.E. President Saddam Hussein that made explicit reference to the involvement in such attacks of the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Kuwaiti regime whines that Iraq is threatening it, as when its Minister for Foreign Affairs requested a meeting with the permanent Members of the Security Council in order to make allegations that Iraq was threatening his country and urge the Security Council to take the necessary measures in view of the supposed threats. The Kuwaiti regime has made similar approaches to regional and other international organizations, and the Kuwaiti Minister of Defence has placed his troops on alert.

A careful reading of President Saddam Hussein's speech shows that these supposed threats to Kuwait are quite fictitious. The speech complains about and criticizes the ongoing attacks carried out against Iraq with the connivance and participation of two of Iraq's Arab neighbours, who provide facilities for the aggressive United States and British forces and finance their onslaughts. The President described this behaviour as shameful and ignominious, which is an apt description of the situation that has prevailed for the past 10 years, as the following facts illustrate:

1. Military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are regularly used in the course of attacks on Iraq. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United States and the United Kingdom have openly acknowledged that such bases exist and are used when Iraqi airspace is violated on the pretext of enforcing the so-called no-fly zone in the south of the

country. That zone was imposed as the result of an independent decision taken by the United States and the United Kingdom, has no legal basis or legitimacy, and is categorically rejected by Iraq.

2. The Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide facilities for United States and British aircraft carriers, which use regional waters and Saudi and Kuwaiti ports in carrying out attacks on Iraq. No aircraft based on such a carrier is capable of striking against Iraq without flying through Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace.

3. The fact that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have put their land, territorial waters and airspace at the disposal of the United States and the United Kingdom for the purpose of attacking Iraq clearly demonstrates that they are colluding with and participants in aggressive acts against an independent, sovereign State.

4. By its distortion of the facts and its attempts to sully the reputation of Iraq by telling the States of the world that the speech made by H.E. President Saddam Hussein contained threats against it, Kuwait aims to provide the United States and the United Kingdom with a pretext for their attacks on Iraq and ensure that the iniquitous sanctions remain permanently in force against the Iraqi people. This means that they are participants in such attacks and share responsibility for the continuation of the sanctions regime, the killing of Iraqi people and the destruction of Iraqi property.

It would appear that the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes want Iraq to submit to the attacks without mentioning their involvement in this criminal daily aggression.

While Iraq condemns the repeated criminal attacks and holds Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully liable for these hostile acts and the resulting material and moral damage, it advises that no fresh act of aggression should be carried out against it. Iraq also urges the Security Council to censure such acts of aggression and intervene with the Governments concerned with a view to halting those acts. Iraq reserves its well-established legal right to seek compensation for all the material and moral damage it has sustained as a result of the attacks, which are in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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Identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to transmit to you the attached letter dated 21 August 2000 from Dr. Sa'dun Hamadi, Speaker of the National Assembly, concerning the persistent aggression of the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti regimes against Iraq, the fact that they make their airbases available to the warplanes of the United States of America and the United Kingdom which shell Iraqi economic and civilian institutions and that they finance all the hostilities that are being committed against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61845 (E) 230800 240800

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention to the extremely serious situation arising from the continuation of the barbaric acts of aggression committed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. On 12 and 13 August 2000, United States and British warplanes, coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, committed a further crime by indiscriminately shelling civilians in civilian residential districts and food storage warehouses in Muthanna Governorate in the south of Iraq, killing two people and wounding 24 civilian citizens.

Between the attack in December 1998 and the present, a total of 18,607 sorties have been flown in the south of Iraq by United Kingdom and United States warplanes taking off from the territory of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, killing 311 citizens and injuring 927 others. The Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian regimes, in an attempt to undermine the firm resolve and steadfastness of purpose of the Iraqi people, have also persisted in their wicked hostility against Iraq and its people and in their determination to kill Iraqis and destroy their property and their civilian installations.

In spite of the flagrant violations of the Charter and procedures of the United Nations, the Security Council, which is the principal body involved in this connection, has been beset by a general paralysis and has been unable to take any immediate collective measures.

The international condemnation of the United States and British aggression has not emanated from the Security Council but has come extensively from the Governments and peoples of Member States on the basis that all the resolutions of the Security Council, including in particular resolutions 687 (1991) and 688 (1991), confirm the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq.

Iraq strongly condemns these repeated acts of aggression and, at the same time, we hold all the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti regimes fully responsible for prolonging the most comprehensive blockade in the world and for the repeated barbaric attacks against Iraq. In addition, we demand the immediate lifting of the unjust blockade that has been imposed on Iraq and has been applied with extreme severity against it, and we also demand an immediate end to the barbaric daily bombardment by United States and British warplanes of civilian and economic sites. It must be affirmed that the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti regimes are making available their territories as bases for United States and British warplanes and that they are financing all the hostilities that are being committed against Iraq.

(*Signed*) Dr. Sa'dun **Hamadi**
Speaker, National Assembly

21 August 2000